

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendment above to claim 18 and comments which follow.

Turning first to claim 18, inadvertently the amendment mentioned in page 2 of the response of January 20, 2010 had not been made. That has now been made to conform to the arguments made in January. No other claim amendments have been made, and it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance, as explained further below.

The Examiner has stood fast, and has continued to reject the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams (US 2002/0023883). Reconsideration is again requested.

The Examiner may have misinterpreted the disclosure of Adams (US 2002/0023883) and also seems not to appreciate the point and significance of the present invention. In the analysis of Adams on pages 2 and 3 of the May 10, 2010 Office Action, the Examiner refers to Adams as disclosing a vibrating machine with a screen having a support structure 191. Paragraph 0072 of Adams refers to Figures 17A and 17B as showing a screen 190 with an optional outer frame 191 with screening material 192 mounted thereto. Figures 17A and 17B do not include reference numeral 191, but it would appear that this reference relates to the frame surrounding the mesh screen 190 (which is equivalent to applicant's woven wire cloth) and not to the support structure.

The Examiner's analysis goes on to refer to the support structure 191 having a first rectangular opening including a plurality of smaller rectangular openings formed by a lattice of struts. With respect, this is not so. Reference 191 described in paragraph 0072 is simply an outer frame.

Paragraph 0072 does describe Figures 17A and 17B as including an item 193 (shown in Figure 17B) which is a lower supporting apertured plate, perforated plate, series of straps or strips, strip member or coarse supporting mesh. This item 193 appears to correspond broadly to applicant's claimed support structure. However, item 193 is certainly not disclosed in Adams as having a plurality of similarly dimensioned, similarly orientated and regularly arranged smaller rectangular openings or windows in the main rectangular opening, as the present claims specifically require.

Paragraph 0057 of Adams also refers to a screen support 213, as shown in Figure 19A. This is for supporting screens (equivalent to applicant's woven wire cloth) and support 213 may be in the form of support strips, frame and/or supporting perforated plate. Again, Adams does not disclose a support structure including a plurality of smaller rectangular openings or windows as applicant claims.

Paragraph 0062 of Adams, in lines 20 and 21, refers to a screen support including a series of spaced apart strips, a perforated plate and/or a frame. Again this is clearly not equivalent to applicant's claimed support structure.

The Examiner goes on to state that in Adams the cloth is bonded to the support structure 191, being bonded to lattice struts as well as the boundary (referring to paragraph 0057). There is no such statement in paragraph 0057. This simply refers to the possibility of screens (i.e. woven wire cloths) being bonded together. Paragraph 0062 lines 25 to 27 does refer to the possibility of at least one of the first screen and second screen being mechanically connected to the screen support. However, there is no disclosure in Adams of bonding of the woven wire cloth to the lattice struts of the support structure, which is not surprising given the absence of any disclosure of the support structure having lattice struts.

More importantly, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, there is no disclosure in Adams of the orientation of the warp and weft wires of the woven wire cloth in relation to the orientation of the rectangular openings of the support structure. While Adams discusses the warp and weft wires of cloths, including cloths which may have rectangular openings in the weave, as shown in Figure 11, Adams is totally silent about the orientation of the warp and weft weaves in relation to the support structure.

In the third paragraph on page 5 of the office action, the Examiner asserts that Adams teaches the orientation of the warp and weft wires in the screen shown in Figures 4 to 13 (which is true) and teaches that the screen can have a support structure, as shown in Figure 17A (which is also true). However, these comments fail completely to address the requirement of applicant's claims of the orientation of the screen relative to the support.

Fundamental to the present invention is the relative orientation of the woven wire cloth and the rectangular openings in the support structure. The orientation used in the present

invention goes against the perceived wisdom in the art, and has various beneficial consequences, as applicants have already explained to the Examiner.

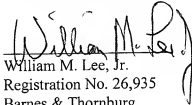
It is therefore submitted that the application, as presently claimed, clearly distinguishes from the prior art and is allowable thereover. The applicant has considered whether further amendments of the claims would be appropriate, and has decided that appropriate amendments have already been made, and nothing further can be offered.

If, for any reason, the Examiner does not agree and is not prepared to allow this application as it stands (including the amendment above), an interview is requested. It is requested that the Examiner, before the issuance of any further action, telephone the undersigned when reaching the present application so that the interview can be conducted, directed to the claimed relationship of the warp and weft wires in relation to the rectangular openings in the support screen. As mentioned previously, and as mentioned above, Adams does not disclose a support screen with rectangular openings and hence does not disclose the critical relationship already set forth in the claims.

Allowance of the application is therefore solicited and, should the Examiner not be prepared to issue a Notice of Allowance, the interview mentioned immediately above is requested in order to further the prosecution and conclusion of proceedings regarding this application.

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Respectfully submitted,


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